

mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder, wherein said mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder contains Aspartame and Acesulfame-K in the same relative amounts as said granulated sweetener.

6. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 2, wherein said granulated sweetener exhibits a rate of dissolution in water which is greater than that exhibited by granules of Aspartame alone.

7. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 2, wherein said granulated sweetener exhibits a rate of dissolution in water which is greater than that exhibited by a mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder, wherein said mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder contains Aspartame and Acesulfame-K in the same relative amounts as said granulated sweetener.

8. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 3, wherein said granulated sweetener exhibits a rate of dissolution in water which is greater than that exhibited by granules of Aspartame alone.

9. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 3, wherein said granulated sweetener exhibits a rate of dissolution in water which is greater than that exhibited by a mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder, wherein said mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder contains Aspartame and Acesulfame-K in the same relative amounts as said granulated sweetener.

10. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 1, wherein said granulated sweetener does not contain a binder.

11. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 2, wherein said granulated sweetener does not contain a binder.

12. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 3, wherein said granulated sweetener does not contain a binder.

13. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 1, wherein said granulated sweetener is prepared by:

(1) forming a mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K; and

(2) granulating said mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K by compacting granulation.

14. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 2, wherein said granulated sweetener is prepared by:

(1) forming a mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K; and

(2) granulating said mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K by compacting granulation.

15. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 3, wherein said granulated sweetener is prepared by:

(1) forming a mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K; and

(2) granulating said mixture of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K by compacting granulation.

16. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 1, which further comprises a diluent or excipient.

17. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 16, wherein said diluent or excipient is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, and mixtures thereof.

18. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 1, which further comprises a another synthetic sweetener.

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19. (New) The granulated sweetener according to Claim 18, wherein said another synthetic sweetener is selected from the group consisting of Alitame, Saccharin, 3,3-dimethylbutylaspartylphenylalanine, and mixtures thereof.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have added new Claims 4-19. Support for new Claims 4-9 can be found on page 4, lines 5-11, of the specification and in Experiments 1 and 2, given on pages 10-12, of the specification. Support for Claims 10-12 can be found on page 9, lines 10-25, of the specification. Support for Claims 13-15 can be found on page 7, lines 15-18, of the specification. Support for Claims 16-19 can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-19 are active in this application.

#### REMARKS

The present claims relate to granulated sweeteners which comprise Aspartame and Acesulfame-K as active ingredients, in which the amount of Acesulfame-K is 5 to 90 % by weight based on the total amount of Aspartame and Acesulfame-K and wherein the maximum particle size of the granules is about 1,400  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

The inventors have surprisingly found that the presently claimed granulated sweeteners exhibit a higher dissolution rate as compared to either Aspartame alone or a mixture of Aspartame powder and Acesulfame-K powder.

The cited reference contains no disclosure or suggestion of such a granulated sweetener. Moreover, this reference contains no teaching which would suggest the improved